

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1948

To promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2014

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BAUCUS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To promote the academic achievement of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children with the establishment of a Native American language grant program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Native Language Im-
5 mersion Student Achievement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Congress established the unique status of
2 Native American languages and distinctive policies
3 supporting their use as a medium of education in
4 the Native American Languages Act (Public Law
5 101-477).

6 (2) Reports from the Bureau of Indian Affairs
7 and tribal, public, charter, and private schools and
8 colleges that use primarily Native American lan-
9 guages to deliver education, have indicated that stu-
10 dents from these schools have generally had high
11 school graduation and college attendance rates above
12 the norm for their peers.

13 (3) The Elementary and Secondary Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) includes policy
15 barriers to schools taught through Native American
16 languages and a lack of adequate funding to support
17 such opportunities.

18 (4) There is a critical need that requires imme-
19 diate action to support education through Native
20 American languages to preserve these languages.

21 **SEC. 3. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS.**

22 Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) is amended
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“PART D—NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE**
2 **SCHOOLS**

3 **“SEC. 7401. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS.**

4 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

5 “(1) to establish a grant program to support
6 schools using Native American languages as the pri-
7 mary language of instruction of all curriculum
8 taught at the school that will improve high school
9 graduation rates, college attainment, and career
10 readiness; and

11 “(2) to further integrate into this Act, Federal
12 policy for such schools, as established in the Native
13 American Languages Act (Public Law 101–477).

14 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts made
16 available to carry out this section, the Secretary may
17 award grants to eligible entities to develop and
18 maintain, or to improve and expand, programs that
19 support schools, including prekindergarten through
20 postsecondary education, using Native American lan-
21 guages as the primary language of instruction of all
22 curriculum taught at the schools.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section, the
24 term ‘eligible entity’ means a school or a private or
25 tribal, nonprofit organization that has a plan to de-
26 velop and maintain, or to improve and expand, pro-

1 grams that support schools using Native American
2 languages as the primary language of instruction of
3 all curriculum taught at the schools.

4 “(c) APPLICATION.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that de-
6 sires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
7 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
8 such manner, and containing such information as
9 the Secretary may require, including the following:

10 “(A) The name of the Native American
11 language to be used for instruction at the
12 school supported by the eligible entity.

13 “(B) The number of students attending
14 such school.

15 “(C) The number of present hours of Na-
16 tive American language instruction being pro-
17 vided to students at such school, if any.

18 “(D) The status of such school with regard
19 to any applicable tribal education department or
20 agency, public education system, indigenous
21 language schooling research and cooperative, or
22 accrediting body.

23 “(E) A statement that such school—

24 “(i) is engaged in meeting targeted
25 proficiency levels for students, as may be

1 required by applicable Federal, State, or
2 tribal law; and

3 “(ii) provides assessments of student
4 using the Native American language of in-
5 struction, where appropriate.

6 “(F) A list of the instructors, staff, admin-
7 istrators, contractors, or subcontractors at such
8 school and their qualifications to deliver high
9 quality education through the Native American
10 language of the school.

11 “(2) ADDITIONAL APPLICATION MATERIALS.—

12 In addition to the application described in paragraph
13 (1), an eligible entity that desires to receive a grant
14 under this section shall submit to the Secretary the
15 following:

16 “(A) A certification from a Federally rec-
17 ognized Indian tribe, or a letter from any Na-
18 tive American entity, on whose land the school
19 supported by the eligible entity is located, or
20 which is served by such school, indicating that
21 the school has the capacity to provide education
22 primarily through a Native American language
23 and that there are sufficient speakers of such
24 Native American language at the school or
25 available to be hired by the school.

1 “(B) A statement that such school will
2 participate in data collection conducted by the
3 Secretary that will determine best practices and
4 further academic evaluation of the school.

5 “(C) A demonstration of the capacity to
6 have speakers of its Native American language
7 provide the basic education offered by such
8 school on a full-time basis.

9 “(d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants
10 under this section, the Secretary shall—

11 “(1) determine the amount and length of each
12 grant;

13 “(2) ensure, to the maximum extent feasible,
14 that diversity in languages is represented; and

15 “(3) require the eligible entities to present a
16 Native language education plan to improve high
17 school graduation rates, college attainment, and ca-
18 reer readiness.

19 “(e) ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.—An eligible entity
20 that receives a grant under this section shall carry out
21 the following activities:

22 “(1) Support Native American language edu-
23 cation and development.

24 “(2) Develop or refine instructional curriculum
25 for the school supported by the eligible entity, in-

1 cluding distinctive teaching materials and activities,
2 as appropriate.

3 “(3) Fund training opportunities for teachers
4 and, as appropriate, staff and administrators, that
5 would strengthen the overall language and academic
6 goals of such school.

7 “(4) Other activities that promote Native Amer-
8 ican language education and development, as appro-
9 priate.

10 “(f) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each eligible entity
11 that receives a grant under this section shall provide an
12 annual report to the Secretary in such form and manner
13 as the Secretary may require.

14 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and such sums as may
17 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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